

NEW SPECIES OF NERTHRA FROM CALIFORNIA

(Hemiptera: Gelastocoridae)

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During the course of a taxonomic revision of the family Gelastocoridae (Hemiptera), it was discovered that the genera *Nerthra* Say and *Mononyx* Laporte are congeneric. As *Nerthra* was described early in 1832 and *Mononyx* not until 1833¹, the former has priority and should be used as the generic name for those species formerly placed in the genus *Mononyx*.

For many years *Nerthra fuscipes* (Guérin-Ménéville) has been reported from California, but these reports were misidentifications of a new species that occurs in the southern part of this state. A second new species has recently been collected in the vicinity of Parker Dam, San Bernardino County, California, by Doctor R. L. Usinger and Mr. Jack Lattin. The descriptions of these two species are presented at this time so that the names will be available for use in a faunal work.

Nerthra martini Todd, new species

Referring to this species:

1876. *Mononyx badius* Herrich-Schäffer; Uhler, Bull. U. S. Geol. Surv., pp. 336-337.1894. *Mononyx stygicus* (Say); Uhler, Proc. California Acad. Sci., Ser. 2, Vol. IV, pp. 290-291.1917. *Mononyx fuscipes* Guérin-Ménéville; Van Duzee, Catalogue of Hemiptera, Univ. of California Publ., p. 474.

Size. Male: Length, 7.0 to 7.6 mm.; width of pronotum, 4.5 to 4.8 mm.; width of abdomen, 4.5 to 5.0 mm. Female: Length, 7.8 to 8.8 mm.; width of pronotum, 4.8 to 5.3 mm.; width of abdomen, 5.0 to 5.8 mm. *Color* varying from a yellowish-brown to black, generally a brown or reddish-brown. A whitish spot on each hemelytron mesad of the junction of the embolial and nodal sutures. In the black specimens the posterior third of the pronotum is generally spotted with pale yellow or white. Ventrally slightly lighter than dorsally; front femur uniform brown, intermediate legs light brown ringed with dark brown areas which may be faint in some specimens; last three abdominal segments lighter than rest of abdomen; connexivum with posterior third of each segment yellowish, anterior two-thirds dark. A few specimens examined were uniformly reddish-brown above and with a lighter marginal band ventrally which extended the entire length of the abdomen. *Structural Characteristics.* Apex of the head pointedly projecting with a pair of rather sharp-pointed tubercles at the tip, sometimes these tubercles

¹ Harris, H. M., Pan-Pacific Entomologist, Vol. 18, No. 1, pp. 161-162, 1942; shows that Laporte's paper did not appear in 1832 as s usually given.

are rather rudimentary; superapical tubercles present. Pronotum not very dilated laterally; lateral edge nearly straight, occasionally weakly sinuous at middle; lateral edge conspicuously converging anteriorly; posterior margin sinuated before scutellum. Pronotum at greatest width not as wide as abdomen in either sex. Scutellum broad, rather large, with slight tumescence on either side, mesad of which are faint rounded depressions. Body sparsely covered with very small bristles, those on the scutellum being slightly clavate. Hemelytra well-developed extending beyond the apex of the abdomen. Lateral margin of the embolium nearly straight, not dilated. Connexivum barely visible from a dorsal view in the male, quite prominent in the female because the posterior abdominal segments are greatly dilated laterally. Last abdominal segment of the male rather large, over half as wide as the eighth abdominal segment, slightly longer than seventh or eighth abdominal segments, asymmetrical. Ventral abdominal segments of female asymmetrical; posterior margin of last abdominal segment more or less pointedly notched; a moderate tumescence on the left side, a faint tumescence on the right side of the last abdominal segment; a deep, elongate, transverse depression extending along the anterior margin of the last abdominal segment from the median line of the abdomen to the tumescence on the left side. Clasper of male (fig. 1) swollen apically; a weak process on the lateral surface and another on the dorsal surface: aedeagal furrow visible on the apical half of the ventral surface.

Holotype male, allotype female, 24 male and two female paratypes. LOS PENSAGUITOS CREEK, SAN DIEGO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA, April 8, 1930, C. H. Martin, in the Francis Huntington Snow Entomological Collection at the University of Kansas. One male and one female paratypes, San Felipe Creek, California, April 14, 1935, C. E. Norland, (Usinger Collection). One male and one female paratypes, Los Angeles County, California, no date, Coquillett, (U. S. Nat. Museum). One male and one female paratypes, Riverside, California, March 2, 1927, T. Craig, (California Academy of Sciences).

In addition to the type series, the writer has seen specimens from the following localities:

California. Afton Canyon, San Bernardino County, July 17, 1931, R. E. Blackwelder, 1 male, (California Acad. Sci.); Ardeou, Dec. 25, 1915, J. C. Martin, 1 female, (California Acad. Sci.); Frenchman Flats, Tehachapi, April 8, 1951, R. L. Usinger, 1 female, (Usinger Collection); Los Angeles, no date, P. R. Uhler, 1 male, (U. S. Nat. Museum); Palm Canyon, April 15, 1916, J. O. Martin, 1 male, (California Acad. Sci.); Palm Springs, Riverside County, April 3, 1925, E. C. Van Dyke, 1 male, (California Acad. Sci.); same place, Jan. 3, 1929, Van Dyke, 1 female, (Univ. of Kansas Coll.); same place, Aug. 2, Hubbard, 1 female, (U. S. Nat. Museum); Panamint Valley, April 1891, C. V. Riley, 2 females, (U. S. Nat. Museum); Pico, March 7, 1916, J. O. Martin, 1 male and 1 female, (California Acad.

Sci.); Pine Valley, July 27, 1938, R. I. Sailer, 1 female, (Univ. of Kansas Coll.); Santa Ana Canyon, July 12, 1931, C. H. Martin, 7 males and 3 females, (Univ. of Kansas Coll.); Sierra Madre, June 7, 1930, C. H. Hicks, 2 males, (Phila. Actd. Sci.); Sierra Nevada Mountains, no date, P. R. Uhler, 1 male, (U. S. Nat. Museum).

Nevada. Warm Springs, Clark County, April 7, 1950, L. A. Rivers and V. K. Johnson, 2 males (California Acad. Sci. and Usinger Coll.).

Arizona. "Ariz.", no date, P. R. Uhler, 1 male, (U. S. Nat. Museum); "Ariz.", no date, C. F. Baker, 1 male and 1 female, (U. S. Nat. Museum).

Baja California. Big Cyn., Sierra Laguna, Oct. 13, 1941, Ross and Bohart, 2 males and 2 females, (California Acad. Sci.); Cataviñ, June 19, 1938, Michelbacher and Ross, 1 male, (California Acad. Sci.); Las Animas, Sierra Laguna, Oct. 12, 1941, Ross and Bohart, 1 male and 2 females, (California Acad. Sci.); Las Parras, Oct. 1925, W. M. Mann, 1 male, (U. S. Nat. Museum); Loreto, Feb., 1923, W. M. Mann, 2 males and 3 females, (U. S. Nat. Museum); 19 mi. E. Rosario, June 17, 1938, Michelbacher and Ross, 3 males, (California Acad. Sci.); "L. Cal.", no date, P. R. Uhler, 1 male, (U. S. Nat. Museum). *Georgia.* (?) Daytono, July 9, 1926, J. R. Delano, 2 females, (Phila. Acad. Sci.). (²labeled Dayton, Ga.).



FIG. 1 N. MARTINI N. SP.



FIG. 2 N. USINGERI N. SP.



FIG. 3 N. MEXICANA (MELIN)

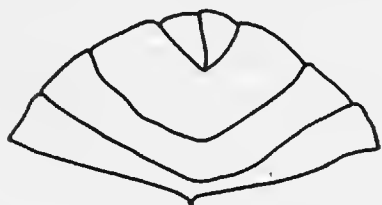


FIG. 5 N. MARTINI N. SP.



FIG. 4 N. STYGICA SAY

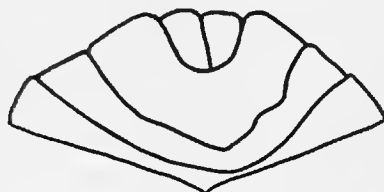


FIG. 6 N. MEXICANA (MELIN)

EXPLANATION OF FIGURES

Figs. 1-4, males, claspers. Figs. 5-6, females, apical abdominal sternites.

² I have not been able to locate a Dayton, Georgia, a Dayton, California, or a Dayton, Guatemala.

This species is very closely related to *Nerthra mexicana* (Melin) and to *N. stygica* Say. It is separated from the former species by the narrow pronotum, slightly larger size, the notch of the posterior margin of the last abdominal segment of the female being rather pointed at the anterior end (figs. 5 and 6) and by the shape of the clasper of the male (figs. 1 and 3). It differs from *N. stygica* Say in that it has separate hemelytra with well-developed membranes, the emargination of the last abdominal segment of the female slightly more pointed anteriorly, and in the shape of the male genitalia (figs. 1 and 4).

This species is named after Doctor C. H. Martin, who studied the genus *Gelastocoris* and who collected the types located in the Francis Huntington Snow Entomological Collection.

Nerthra usingeri Todd, new species

Size. Male: Length, 6.4 to 6.8 mm.; width of pronotum, 4.5 mm.; width of abdomen, 4.4 to 4.5 mm. Female: Length, 7.1 to 7.7 mm.; width of pronotum, 4.8 to 5.0 mm.; width of abdomen, 4.7 to 5.0 mm. *Color.* General overall color yellowish-brown to dark brown nearly black. Some specimens have the dorsal surface mottled with black and yellowish-brown. Ventrally slightly lighter in color than on the dorsal surface; front femora are brown, darkest basad, intermediate and hind legs yellowish-brown with dark brown rings. Abdominal segments, both above and below have light yellowish spots at the latero-caudal angles of each segment. *Structural characteristics.* Apex of head pointedly projecting, usually with a pair of sharp-pointed tubercles, all are variable in size. Pronotum with the lateral margins more or less rounded, converging anteriorly and posteriorly; widest level with the transverse furrow; posterior margin deeply sinuated at the middle before the scutellum. Scutellum large, not strongly elevated. Hemelytra with well-developed membranes, extending to or beyond the end of the abdomen; lateral margins of the embolia nearly straight for the basal half then gently curving medially. Connexivum visible to the width of pronotum. Bristles very small, short, peg-like, sparsely distributed over the body. Abdominal segments of the male asymmetrical; ninth abdominal segment small, oval, wider than long, slightly longer than eighth segment; seventh abdominal segment spatulate on right side, posterior margin of spatula flat. Ventral abdominal segments of female asymmetrical; posterior margin of last abdominal segment roundly emarginated (like *N. mexicana* [Melin], see fig. 6), a moderate tumescence on the left side, a faint tumescence on the right side of the last abdominal segment; a deep, elongate, transverse depression extending along the anterior margin of the last abdominal segment from the median line of the abdomen to the tumescence on the left side. Clasper of male (fig. 2), very distinctive, broad and flattened apically, widest near apex; aedeagal furrow visible on apical half of ventral surface, terminating before reaching apex; clasper flattened in an oblique dorso-ventral plane.

Holotype male, near PARKER DAM, CALIFORNIA, April 12, 1952, R. L. Usinger, and allotype female, wash 3.5 mi. N. Cross Roads, California, April 12, 1952, J. D. Lattin, in the collection of the California Academy of Sciences at San Francisco. One male and five female paratypes, wash 3.5 mi. N. Cross Roads, California, April 12, 1952, J. D. Lattin, in the R. L. Usinger Collection at the University of California. One male and one female paratypes, same data, in the personal collection of Mr. Lattin.

The difference in the locality of the holotype and the remainder of the specimens examined is merely a difference on the part of the two collectors in labelling the specimens. These data represent the same locality.

Closely related to *Nerthra stygica* Say, *N. mexicana* (Melin) and *N. martini* Todd. This species may be separated from *N. stygica* by the fact that the hemelytra are normal with well-developed membranes. The distinctive clasper of the male (fig 2) will separate this species from the males of *N. mexicana* (Melin (fig. 3) and *N. martini* Todd (fig. 1). The females of this species differ from the females of *N. martini* Todd in that the emargination of the last ventral abdominal segment is broadly rounded. To the knowledge of the writer it may only be separated from females of *N. mexicana* (Melin) by distribution.

A NEW HIPPOMELAS FROM CALIFORNIA

(Coleoptera: Buprestidae)

JACQUES R. HELFER

Mendocino, California

*Hippomelas diana*e Helfer, new species

Holotype male elongate, subcuneate; aeneoviridis above and beneath; pubescence short, white, moderately dense; intervals of elytra sparsely efflorescent. *Head* moderately, coarsely, irregularly setopunctuate; eyes rather prominent; antennae inserted under conspicuous oblique ridges, eleven segmented, scape long, second segment slightly longer than broad, third segment much longer than second, serrate from fourth segment, segments four through eleven each with an area of sensory pores along outer edge, and with an intero-terminal sensory fossa, terminal segment with a distinct appendix; clypeous angularly, not deeply emarginate; labrum bilobate, testaceous, pale. *Pronotum* broadest at base with front margin broadly arcuate, sides broadly